



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Former Bank Employee Sentenced for Embezzlement

BISMARCK - United States Attorney Drew H. Wrigley announced that on January 31, 2006, **Sharon S. Pfenning** of Bismarck, North Dakota, pleaded guilty and was sentenced before United States District Court Chief Judge Daniel L. Hovland on a charge of embezzlement by a bank employee.

Pfenning, 53, worked as a teller coordinator at U.S. Bank, Bismarck. Beginning in 1985 and continuing until April 2005 **Pfenning** embezzled as much as \$347,000.00 from the bank. **Pfenning** typically took cash at the end of the day and often used daily cash-in-transit tickets to hide the missing money. Hiding the money in this way required **Pfenning** to be in the bank on a daily basis, and she did not take full days of leave for many years. **Pfenning** used the embezzled money to pay her credit card debt.

In accordance with the United States Sentencing Guidelines, Judge Hovland sentenced **Pfenning** to serve 21 months in Federal prison, followed by three years of supervised release. **Pfenning** was ordered to pay restitution of \$347,000.00, of which \$190,984.84 remains to be paid, and to pay a \$100 special assessment to the Crime Victim's Fund.

The case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Assistant United States Attorney Clare Hochhalter prosecuted the case.

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